

Rains Miss Some Dry Areas

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 21, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.02 inches in the central Lower Peninsula to 3.26 inches in the northwest Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal in the northeast Lower Peninsula to 4 degrees above normal in the southeast Lower Peninsula. Recent precipitation has helped in most areas of the State. There were reports of rain needed in isolated areas across the State. A farmer in the west central said, “It is still very dry here. It rains all around us!” Another farmer from the west central echoed this with “We had some rain this week and it did some good for crops not already beyond help from dry weather stress.”

Field Crops

Temperatures were above average for most of the State. Many areas received timely rains although locally some areas remained dry. **Corn** continued to look good. Many fields were at the dough stage. **Soybean** fields varied. Damage caused by aphids, spider mites and nematodes continued to be seen. Areas that were previously moisture stressed saw improvement in soybeans. The third cutting of **alfalfa** continued. Some growers reported a potential for a fourth cutting. Fall seeding also continued. **Oat** harvest was completed. **Sugarbeet** fields advanced. Some growers reported a lack of moisture for the crop. Reports of Cercospera leafspot remained high. **Dry bean** fields progressed and looked good.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/21/05

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	14	34	51	1
Subsoil	16	42	42	0

Crop condition for week ending 08/21/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	5	17	28	39	11
Corn	1	5	23	50	21
Dry beans	1	6	25	55	13
Pasture	5	24	34	31	6
Soybeans	3	5	24	49	19

Fruit

In the southwest, **peach** growers were harvesting Red Haven, Coral Star, and other varieties. There were complaints of uneven ripening due to the lack of rain. Harvest continued in the southeast. In the west central, harvest was in full swing. Fruit size and quality were good. In the northwest, harvest continued. In the southwest, **apple** growers were harvesting Paula Reds. In the southeast, apples continued sizing and harvest of early varieties was underway. In the west central, harvest of early varieties continued. In the northwest, apple fruit were sizing well, except on the sandy knobs. Growers in the southwest were finishing up **blueberry** harvest. In the southeast, harvest continued. Bird damage continued on blueberries. In the southwest, fall **raspberry** harvest continued. Harvest also continued in the southeast. Harvest of **pears** and **plums** was underway in the southwest; fruit was generally small due to the lack of moisture.

Vegetables

Crops continued to develop well ahead of normal in some areas of the State, while some fields appeared to be very dry. **Carrot** harvest continued with some disease evident due to irrigation. **Celery** harvest was well underway. **Onion** harvest continued. **Pepper** harvest continued with virus symptoms present in some fields. **Potato** harvest continued. **Pumpkin** plants were sizing well and continued to show some color. **Snap bean** harvest was completed in many areas. **Sweet corn** harvest continued showing excellent quality. **Squash, zucchini, and cucumbers** continued to show more signs of downy mildew. **Tomatoes** for processing harvest was in full swing, while fresh market harvest progressed with both crops having good quality.

Crop progress for week ending 08/21/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	93	88	81	87
All hay, third cutting	51	35	27	28
Blueberries, harvested	89	82	88	NA
Corn, dough	80	57	35	30
Corn, dent	23	3	2	4
Dry beans, setting pods	99	91	84	83
Dry beans, turning leaves	16	7	5	8
Oats, harvested	97	87	66	79
Peaches, harvested	60	50	50	NA
Potatoes, harvested	16	9	NA	NA
Soybeans, setting pods	98	88	79	84
Soybeans, turning leaves	3	NA	1	2

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/21/05 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2005	2004	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	77	45		1,844	1,292		0.39	0.85	1.83	9.96		
Marquette	79	45		1,753	1,206		0.31	0.51	2.59	11.47		
Stephenson	87	47		1,886	1,497		0.94	1.88	2.32	8.95		
Western UP	87	45	1	1,807	1,289	1,497	0.49	0.96	2.00	9.99	14.97	3.69
Cornell	83	48		1,805	1,331		0.59	1.21	2.58	7.63		
Sault St Marie	77	49		1,725	1,085		1.21	1.64	4.78	9.19		
Eastern UP	85	39	2	1,720	1,136	1,303	0.78	1.37	3.32	9.08	14.08	3.53
Beulah	83	51		2,095	1,523		4.04	4.29	6.43	12.57		
Lake City	82	44		1,936	1,517		2.28	2.48	5.24	13.75		
Old Mission	82	50		1,969	1,451		3.35	3.79	6.15	10.69		
Pellston	82	46		1,940	1,403		3.07	4.21	5.33	11.15		
Northwest	83	44	1	1,956	1,424	1,688	3.26	3.93	6.15	12.13	13.27	3.11
Alpena	82	48		1,859	1,457		2.77	3.72	6.31	12.94		
Houghton Lake	81	41		1,980	1,592		0.79	1.09	2.61	10.01		
Rogers City	81	43		1,900	1,480		3.15	3.89	6.19	13.02		
Northeast	83	40	-1	1,934	1,496	1,638	2.83	3.43	5.64	13.17	13.32	3.12
Fremont	84	54		2,207	1,779		0.04	0.56	1.61	6.64		
Hart	84	54		2,117	1,640		0.17	0.44	4.67	10.60		
Muskegon	84	54		2,273	1,789		0.32	1.55	2.24	7.25		
West Central	84	49	3	2,172	1,705	1,843	0.29	0.83	3.41	8.78	13.70	3.60
Alma	82	52		2,238	1,892		0.02	0.45	1.30	7.62		
Big Rapids	82	53		2,172	1,759		0.00	0.00	1.72	8.61		
Central	82	52	2	2,188	1,819	1,915	0.02	0.29	1.45	8.38	14.55	3.64
Bad Axe	85	56		2,177	1,714		0.54	0.97	2.66	12.00		
Pigeon	83	50		2,030	1,692		0.32	0.38	1.42	9.58		
Saginaw	83	54		2,169	1,875		0.22	0.96	2.61	12.15		
Standish	83	55		2,123	1,675		0.56	0.68	1.94	12.24		
East Central	85	50	2	2,107	1,748	1,905	0.41	0.82	2.12	11.56	13.15	2.93
Fennville	86	54		2,270	1,819		0.32	0.34	0.66	5.13		
Grand Rapids	84	58		2,386	2,106		0.75	1.11	2.05	16.01		
Holland	86	55		2,357	1,911		0.25	0.92	1.40	3.51		
South Bend, IN	84	57		2,531	2,235		0.65	2.09	3.08	9.66		
Watervliet	86	57		2,417	1,999		0.68	1.21	1.92	8.83		
Southwest	88	54	2	2,381	2,003	2,069	0.49	0.97	1.67	8.16	15.25	3.18
Belding	84	55		2,181	1,895		0.06	0.15	0.79	12.09		
Coldwater	84	58		2,252	1,947		0.40	0.86	1.51	11.06		
Lansing	84	58		2,393	1,982		0.18	0.60	1.43	14.79		
South Central	86	55	3	2,320	2,005	2,045	0.23	0.59	1.36	11.33	15.27	3.36
Detroit	89	63		2,528	2,218		0.19	0.55	2.28	11.52		
Flint	85	55		2,286	2,030		0.07	0.31	1.91	10.73		
Romeo	86	59		2,302	1,997		0.48	1.05	2.25	12.88		
Tipton	87	57		2,340	1,965		0.67	1.11	2.31	12.88		
Toledo, OH	88	59		2,498	2,278		0.65	1.34	2.82	10.80		
Southeast	89	54	4	2,348	2,086	2,033	0.50	1.09	2.36	12.74	14.69	3.12

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.